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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Ryokichi Matsumoto et al  
Serial No. : 09/638,162  
Filed : August 14, 2000  
For : POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL FIBER  
AND POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL  
FIBER COMPONENT  
Group Art Unit : 2874  
Examiner : Rahll, Jerry T.

December 15, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56 and § 1.97, Applicants submits and wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references listed below.

1. Translation of the Japanese Office Action dated September 09, 2003 for a related patent application, together with the following seven (7) references that were cited in the Office Action by the Japanese Patent Examiner and corresponding English translation of the abstracts.